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5-9-98

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Dear Hal:

The weather here has vastly improved and although rain has hit us here in the Bay Area it is not equal to the power and strength of the El Nino variety. Today is real sunny & the kind of day that makes you want to get out & take a long walk (which I shall do some time after I write you this letter.

I've enclosed quite some material on the James Earl Ray/MLK case which you can read at your leisure. There's nothing in them of an revelatory nature as you'll no doubt see.

By the way last week I spoke with Walt Brown and he told me an interesting story about Posner. Walt said that Posner & his wife were in Memphis in a book store where Posner was signing books for those who bought the book and wanted his autograph. A woman came up to Posner & asked Posner to sign it which Posner agreed to. Posner wrote something like "Now You Will Know the Truth Behind This Case" or words virtually the same.

Thereupon the woman then asked Posner if he wouldn't mind turning the page. Posner did so & on that page was written: "This book is a work of fiction" & it was signed by James Earl Ray. Walt said there was no doubt about the authenticity of Ray's signature and Walt also told me that all of this was televised and he has the video of this. Walt also got on video Posner's wife, who Walt says, was "in a fit" over this. Walt said he would show the video at the COPA conference in November in Dallas.

Now my comments on some of the other items: you'll note Walt's "EXTRA!!" in which he discusses a "TSBD SHOOTER IDENTIFIED". I said I was quite skeptical about any of this evidence but I'd wait until I heard more. Haven't we all heard something like this before where nothing of substance remains?!

The other items I've enclosed need no further commentary that I can see but what I do want to commenting on is the stuff on the Fetzer-Twyman (twins?) stuff since they include mention of me.

There are two book reviews of the Twyman & Fetzer books—one is in the British Dealey Plaza Echo (by R. Rooksby) & the other is by Walt Brown. Both reviews leave so much to be desired which I'm sure you'll see by reading them. Walt, although he does express a skeptical note about Fetzer to some degree, falls for the Mantik version of facts & trails off at the end.

I told Walt of my objection to these things & Walt asked me if I'd do an article on Fetzer. I agreed to & said I'd try to cut the

length of my proposed piece because what I had to say could conceivably occupy his whole issue. Naturally Walt said he couldn't do this & of course, I will cut it. (I didn't tell Walt this but my title will most likely be "CASE CLOSED II: ANOTHER LOOK AT THE ALTERATION/FORGERY THEORY.")

I also told Walt that I proposed a long abstract to be presented at both the Lancer & COPA conferences in Dallas this coming November. My tentative title will be: "THE CASE AGAINST FILM ALTERATION AND AUTOPSY & X-RAY FORGERY."

I mentioned my theme to Gary Aguilar & he knows of my objection but I don't know to what extent he realizes my full objections but this will all come out at some point in time.

By the way Gary will be hold a JFK "buff" meeting at his office on Saturday, May 23rd & he invited me, Dr. Mantik, Bill Adams (of the La Fontaine "Oswald Talked" bit), Bill O'Neil (an excellent researcher & friend of mine) & several others to come. I don't think Gary invited Paul Hoch to appear most likely because he sees Paul as not pushing the case Gary wants it be directed.

There are two other people being invited of whom you may have heard of and these are Art Snyder & his wife Margaret. Neither support the Tower/Fetzer "twin" history version. Art told me he's written an article for "SKEPTIC" magazine which takes the Skeptic's editor to task for lumping assassination researchers with UFO followers, etc, etc. The issue will be the November one & when I get it I'll send you a copy of the article.

Art said he's looking very much forward

to meeting Mantik at the May 23rd get together & Gary wants me to do about a half hour presentation on why I think Twyman/Fetzer & also Mantik are wrong which I said I'll offer.

By the way on this latter point if you can think of any questions I can pose to Mantik on his "Mantik Doctrine" (that's what I call his claim of horizontal & vertical frame editing plus his claim of "composite" frame manufacture) please let me know. I'll have my own way of presenting my differences but any help I can get would be appreciated.

Now this gets me to my final point about my enclosures relating to my January, 1998 "Fourth Decade" book review refuting claims by Fetzer & Twyman. First, note the reply by two writes in "letters to the edita" published in the "Fourth Decade" of March, 1998. I've answered these letters & sent along my answer to Jerry Rose & I'm sure he'll print what I have to say. I mince no words & they'll both have to think twice before they take me on. Their ignorance about the case stands out like a sore thumb! (I'll send you my reply after Jerry publishes it).

And now to my very final point: You'll recall that when I wrote you that I found it curious that neither Twyman nor Fetzer had replied to my critical review of their books, well, guess what — Fetzer did finally reply. But he did so on the internet & since I don't have a computer I knew nothing about Fetzer's

reply until a researcher friend of mine called me & said, "Hey Hal, guess what they're saying about you on the internet & it's some pretty nasty stuff." My friend was kind enough to send me the print-out which included a 7-page diatribe against me. The total number of pages referring to me was eleven pages in all. (A copy of which I've enclosed).

I would not have known anything about this and all this would've passed over the internet with readers most likely believing everything Fetzer said about me. I know you'll get a chance to read it but here are some of the words he uses to vilify me (& these are not all): "highly misleading"; "hopelessly inadequate"; "virtually everything wrong"; "cheap shots"; "pulled over Verb's head"; "limitation of Verb's methodology"; "misses the point"; "blinded to the fact"; "dreadfully unqualified" & "incompetence."

You can imagine after I read this that it was like throwing a red banner in front of a bull. I called a few friends (including Aguilar) to see if they would be willing to put on my refutation of his eleven point "rebuttal"! All of them were busy & couldn't do it. Aguilar had problems because the new home he recently moved into turned out to be badly in disrepair & so he's moving out — I can well understand his not being able to do what I wanted.

I finally contacted a friend who will do my reply to the Fetzer 7 page attack. I should mention that I've decided that when I

do my eleven point reply I'll do it on a point-by-point basis and do each point on one day at a time. According to a researcher (Shackelford) who uses the internet all the time it is better not to answer Fetzer's "rebuttal" all in one swipe. He said spread it out — it'll have more impact that way & Fetzer will either have to reply day by day or wait until all my replies are in after eleven days. I think he's right & this is what I'll be doing. If you have any suggestions or thoughts on this I'd be most appreciative for them.

So I'll be working the next two weeks on doing this. I know friends of mine who say, "why waste your time on him — he's not worth it" but his attack on my credibility & the absurd comments he's made have really got me mad. I simply cannot sit by & allow this foolishness to persist!

Well, there you have it as to what's new around here. At least I can say it hasn't been dull these past few weeks & what the future may bring I can't say but I'll be in there fighting!

Best,

Hal Verb